

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15288 01 OF 02 211854Z

51

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEQ-01

COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-03 FEAE-00

ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 OIC-02 TRSE-00 AF-04 ARA-06

NEA-06 /137 W

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R 211840Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5925

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - MEETING OF "DUTCH GROUP"

1. SUMMARY: US REPS MET 20 NOVEMBER WITH PORTION OF DUTCH LOS CONTACT GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. ITEMS DISCUSSED INCLUDED TACTICS FOR GENEVA SESSION OF CONFERENCE, COUNTRY POSITION ON CONSENT WITHIN ECONOMIC ZONE, AND ROLE OF SEABED AUTHORITY IN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES BEYOND LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION. END SUMMARY

2. US REPRESENTATIVES (WOLF (NSF) AND BUSBY (STATE) MET  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15288 01 OF 02 211854Z

AM 20 NOVEMBER AT REQUEST OF CHAIRMAN WALKATE WITH MEM-

BERS OF DUTCH GROUP. PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF NETHERLANDS (WALKATE), UK (BOSTON), DENMARK, USSR (KOVAL-  
EV), POLAND (LUKASIK). PRINCIPAL ISSUES DISCUSSED AS  
FOLLOWS:

(A) ISRA UK VERY STRONG ON LIMITING ANY POWERS OF ISRA  
TO SEABED ALONE, AND THEN ONLY WITH REGARD TO EXPLOITATIVE  
ACTIVITIES. OTHER MEMBERS SECONDED THIS, AND ALL AGREED  
THAT GROUP SHOULD TAKE UNITED STAND AGAINST ANY REGULATION  
OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL  
JURISDICTION.

(B) COUNTRY POSITION - USSR STATED THAT CONSENT REGIME FOR  
THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS ESSENTIAL PART OF THEIR POSITION  
AND MADE PITCH FOR MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION BY GROUP AS A  
WHOLE. THEY POINTED OUT THAT L-19 (DUTCH GROUP PROPOSAL)  
COULD BE MODIFIED IN THIS REGARD, RESULTING IN A LARGE  
ENOUGH GROUP TO ENSURE AT LEAST A BLOCKING THIRD IN CASE  
OF A VOTE (SEE SEPTTEL ON PRIVATE US/USSR MEETING). UK  
SUPPORTED THIS APPROACH AND DUTCH, ALTHOUGH NOT TAKING  
STRONG STAND, INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY WERE OF  
OPINION THIS MIGHT BE BEST COURSE OF ACTION. DENMARK AND  
POLAND REMAINED SILENT ON THIS ISSUE. BOSTON FROM UK STAT-  
ED THEY ENVISAGED 1958 SHELF CONVENTION EXTENDING TO THE  
EDGE OF THE MARGIN AND SUPERIMPOSED OVER IT A 200 MILE  
FISHING ZONE. BOSTON PRIVATELY NOTED DIFFICULTIES WITH THE  
FRENCH AND THE IRISH ON SHELF DELIMITATION AS INFLUENCING  
THEIR POSITION REGARDING THE 1958 SHELF CONVENTION.

(C) TACTICS FOR GENEVA - DUTCH SUGGESTED THAT CONTACT  
GROUP MEET ON TWO LEVELS IN GENEVA. THE SIX EUROPEAN  
SPONSORS OF L-19 WOULD MEET WITH THE CO-SPONSORS FROM  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND HOPEFULLY PICK UP OTHER LDCS TO  
ENLARGE THIS GROUP. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO RETAIN AS MUCH  
DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION,  
REGULAR DUTCH GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS TO  
PLAN STRATEGY AND COORDINATE EFFORTS. USSR AND DUTCH INTRO-  
DUCED POSSIBILITY OF OPTING FOR A "BLOCKING THIRD" STRAT-  
EGY WITH OBJECTIVE OF PREVENTING INCLUSION OF SCIENCE  
ARTICLE IN TREATY. ALTHOUGH US POINTED OUT THAT THIS  
COURSE OF ACTION PROBABLY NOT FEASIBLE, GROUP SEEMED TO  
FEEL IT MIGHT BE WORTH PERSUING FURTHER. USSR STATED THAT  
IF IT BECAME OBVIOUS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT THERE  
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PAGE 03 LONDON 15288 01 OF 02 211854Z

WAS A BLOCKING THIRD AVAILABLE, THEY WOULD THEN  
BE MORE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THAN AT PRESENT. USSR FELT

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15288 02 OF 02 211852Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15288

THIS COULD BE USED TO OBTAIN TYPE OF REGIME THEY DESIRED,  
(I.E. CONSENT ON SHELF AND FREEDOM IN WATER COLUMN).  
POLAND IN STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A COHESIVE  
GROUP, STATED POLAND HAD INFORMATION THAT DEVELOPING COUN-  
TRIES INTENDED TO PUSH FOR VOTING EARLY IN GENEVA ON A  
VARIETY OF ISSUES, AND THAT THEY WOULD INSIST TERM  
"ECONOMIC ZONE" BE DROPPED IN FAVOR OF SIMPLY "ZONE."  
THEY BELIEVED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD THEN USE THEIR  
VOTING MAJORITY TO ENSURE JURIDICAL CONTENT OF ZONE WOULD  
BECOME MORE TERRITORIAL. HE STATED THAT IN POLAND'S VIEWS  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15288 02 OF 02 211852Z

"THE FUTURE LOOKS BLACK." (COMMENT: THIS VIEW WAS VOICED IN LESS STARK TERMS BY KOVALEV IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO GROUP OF 17 MEETING).

(D) UNILATERAL CLAIMS - POLAND BROUGHT UP PENDING US NATIONAL LEGISLATION (S.1988) AND STATED PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE "DISASTEROUS" EFFECT ON LOS CONFERENCE. UK AND USSR AGREED. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, POLAND REP STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS "NOT AFRAID" OF UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHED US ECONOMIC ZONE AND THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN LOS TREATY, THEY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE S1988 ENACTED AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, SINCE THEY FEARED EXTREME UNILATERAL ACTION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND FELT A "REASONABLE" US CLAIM WOULD HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT. HE CONTINUED TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THE PREFERRED OUTCOME WAS AN LOS TREATY, AND HIS VIEWS ON UNILATERAL ACTION WERE MEANT TO APPLY ONLY IN EXTREME SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: MEETING PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF DUTCH GROUP. SOVIETS AND UK TENDED TO USE MEETING TO FURTHER THEIR OBJECTIVES ON THE SHELF AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS DECISION TO PUSH FOR CONSENT REGIME WILL GREATLY STRENGTHEN HAND OF ADVOCATES OF THIS POSITION. US REPS PRIVATELY ASKED WALKATE TO INFORM US OF ANY FURTHER THINKING HIS GOVERNMENT OR EEC MIGHT HAVE ON SUBJECT, AND IN PARTICULAR DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BEFORE ANY DECISION MADE BY DUTCH OR OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON ISSUE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON15288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740337-0871  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741124/aaaaaugc.tel  
**Line Count:** 201  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION DLOS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - MEETING OF "DUTCH GROUP"  
**TAGS:** PLOS, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005